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Recent Trips and Speeches

I had the privilege of presenting the keynote address at the International Symposium on Nutrient Cycling in Agricultural Ecosystems at Athens, Ga., September 20. This conference, sponsored by the University of Georgia, the National Science Foundation, and SEA/AR was the first of an annual international series on research needs related to agricultural ecosystems. Future conferences will explore energy, irrigation, and integrated pest management and their effects on the ecosystem.

Along with the Chief of the Forest Service and the Administrator of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, I spoke at the National Soil Conservation Service Conference in South Dakota. Together, our agencies are exploring ways to build better coordinated, long-term conservation strategies for more effective programs in resource conservation for the 1980's.

Budget Update

On September 29, the Senate approved stop-gap legislation to keep the Federal Government from running out of money October 1. The resolution will continue funding until Congress can vote on more permanent legislation when it returns for a post-election session in mid-November or until December 15, the new funding deadline.

In the meantime, SEA has been busy supplying information and answering questions for the examiner from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on the 1982 budget. We also have had a budget review session with OMB.

In an effort to improve the participation of SEA cooperators in the budget development process, a conference has been scheduled for early November to review the 1982 budget development process, and to plan for 1983.

Senior Executive Service Awards

Ralph J. McCracken, associate director of SEA, and H C Cox, regional administrator of SEA/AR's Western Region, received the Meritorious Executive award for sustained accomplishment in the new Senior Executive Service. The award, which carries a bonus of \$10,000 and a certificate of recognition signed by the President, is given to only 5 percent of the Senior Executives in the Federal Government.



## Personnel Notes

James Nielson, JPE Deputy Director, has accepted a position with the U.S. Department of State as Director of Research for the Board of International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) under a Research Service Support Agreement (RSSA) between the State Department and USDA. He will assume his new duties with State around the middle of October.

Dr. Nielson joined USDA in 1977, as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Conservation, Research and Education. He later led the task force responsible for forming the Science and Education Administration and served as its Acting Director for several months. Dr. Nielson has made a lasting contribution to the science and education system. He will be missed, and we will look forward to his return to SEA after his assignment in the State Department ends.

Lark P. Carter has been named Assistant Director for Higher Education. Dr. Carter will join SEA Headquarters on Oct. 20 on an IPA agreement with Montana State University. He acquired a broad academic background in agricultural and vocational education, rural sociology, plant physiology, and agronomy at Iowa State University. He joined Montana State University in 1960 and has been the Associate Dean of Agriculture and Assistant Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station there since 1972. He will be filling the position left vacant by Homer Folks who returned to the university of Missouri.

Mary E. Carter, Director of the Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans since 1973, has been appointed Associate Administrator for SEA/AR. She will begin this new assignment in mid-October. Dr. Carter, a native of Georgia, was the first American woman to receive a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. She held several positions in the fiber industry, before joining USDA in 1971. Dr. Carter has served as a consultant for the National Academy of Sciences since 1975 and is on its Board of Science and Technology for International Development.

Mary Nell Greenwood, Extension Administrator, has announced the appointment of Eugene Williams to the position of Deputy Administrator for 4-H and Youth Programs effective October 1. Dr. Williams has been Program Leader of 4-H and Youth Programs for the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service for the past 14 years. He has been actively involved as a charter trustee of the National 4-H Council and has served as a member of their Executive Committee. Well known in the Southern Region, Dr. Williams has chaired the 4-H division of the Southern Agricultural Workers and was a member of the Southern Region 4-H development committee.

Thomas J. Army became the new Deputy Administrator of the National Program Staff in SEA/AR on September 7. Dr. Army was previously a Group Leader on the Program Planning Staff of Joint Planning and Evaluation. As an agronomist, he gained world-wide recognition in dryland agriculture and the interrelationships of weather and crop production during his years as a Federal researcher. Dr. Army's agricultural research activities have included assignments in Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Far East. The position he now fills was left vacant when Carl W. Carlson retired earlier this year.



### Associate Administrator Position Announcement

The position announcement for Associate Administrator for SEA/Extension has been issued and mailed to State Directors and other administrators. I would like to underscore SEA/Extension Administrator Mary Nell Greenwood's request for all highly qualified people to apply so that we will have a top-notch talent bank from which to choose.

### New Legislation

On September 24, President Carter signed Public Law 96-355, the Rural Development Policy Act of 1980, extending the authorization for Title V of the Rural Development Act of 1972 through Fiscal Year 1981. It provides that annual plans and budgets for Title V programs shall be jointly developed by the 1890 Institutions and the 1862 Institutions, including Tuskegee Institute. It also expands application of Title V programs to Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands. The law amends the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to provide authorization for up to \$1 million to establish a system for disseminating information and technical assistance on federally sponsored or funded programs. The law also creates within USDA an Office of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Small Community and Rural Development.

September 26, President Carter signed into law, S.1650, the National Aquaculture Act of 1980, Public Law 96-362, setting a national aquaculture policy, establishing a national development plan, and encouraging programs in both public and private sectors. The development plan is to be established within 18 months by the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and Interior. We are looking forward to working with industry, the States, and other Federal agencies to further the development of aquaculture in this country.

### 1890's Facilities Bill

The House Committee on Agriculture approved the 1890's Facilities Bill (H.R. 7557) authorizing grants to help the 1890 Institutions and Tuskegee Institute upgrade their facilities and equipment for agricultural research.

The bill authorizes grants totaling \$10 million a year to these land-grant institutions for the five fiscal years beginning in 1981. The bill does not require State matching funds, as have the previous bills. The funds are to be spent for purchasing equipment and land, and for planning, constructing, altering, or renovating buildings to strengthen their capacity for food and agricultural research. The Senate will consider this bill when it reconvenes in November.

### New Merit Pay/Performance Appraisal System

During the next two months, all merit pay employees and their supervisors will receive training in merit pay and performance appraisal. The training will include instructions on writing performance standards. This, combined with the efforts of the SEA Merit Pay/Performance Appraisal Steering Committee, will enable us to meet our December 31 deadline for having all merit pay employees under performance standards.





### SEA's Human Nutrition Research Centers

Work is now underway at the new Western Human Nutrition Research Center, in San Francisco. Using facilities transferred from the Letterman Army Institute of Research, research at this center concerns developing new and improved methodologies for assessing individual nutritional status. Work will focus on identifying factors, forces and trends resulting in poor nutritional status and developing criteria for the design and evaluation of nutrition intervention programs.

Ground was broken this past month for a significant addition to the Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Center, in North Dakota. This center conducts research into the role of trace elements in human nutrition such as zinc, copper and nickel.

### Animal Welfare

The 1966 Animal Welfare Act, which covers the humane care of research animals, specifically excludes livestock and poultry. Four bills currently before Congress would amend the welfare act, possibly to include farm animals; would allocate money for research into alternatives to animal experimentation or establish a commission to investigate alternatives for animals in research projects; and, would establish a National Center for Alternative Research.

SEA is developing a program that will provide background information on many welfare concerns. We will continue our support of ongoing projects in animal welfare and behavior. We now coordinate animal welfare concerns, responses, and research programs across SEA units. We will continue to support animal production programs and to provide information on efficient husbandry practices consistent with humane animal treatment.

### Personnel Examining Authorities Given to SEA

SEA's Administrative Operations Division (AOD), which services headquarters and AR's Northeastern Region, can now recruit, advertise, examine, and rate candidates for filling many job positions. These functions, traditionally placed with Office of Personnel Management, were assumed by the AOD Personnel Office October 1. The new authority will now allow SEA to conduct targeted recruitment and to evaluate candidates. This will also help in recruiting minorities and should speed up the entire hiring process. After approximately six months of operation, a cost/benefit study will be made. The results of the study will be given to the Servicing Personnel Office in the other regions who will eventually have the choice of assuming examining authority.

### Forum for New State Home Economics Leaders

Twenty-six new Assistant Directors/State Leaders of home economics representing 22 States, attended an Extension forum in Washington, D.C., in late August. The new administrators participated in meetings and discussions with SEA staff members. Those arriving early had the benefit of a Capitol Hill briefing on the legislative process coordinated by Kathy Tollerton, Chief, Legislative Staff, SEA.



# 1980 SEA Grant Programs Completed

All authorized SEA grants have now been awarded for 1980 and are summarized by program area and type of institution, following.

## SPECIAL RESEARCH GRANTS

<u>Program Area</u>	<u>Number of Grants</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Soybean Research	6	\$ 485,000
Energy Research	23	1,843,000
Animal Health	70	6,790,000
Alcohol Research	5	485,000
(P.L. 95-113 Sect. 1419)		
Guayule (Native Latex) Research	9	630,500

## COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANTS

<u>Program Area</u>	<u>Number of Grants</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Biological Nitrogen Fixation	33	\$2,813,000
Photosynthesis	41	2,813,000
Genetic Mechanisms	44	3,298,000
Biological Stress on Plants	60	3,298,000
Human Nutrition	28	2,813,000

In addition, we have awarded 37 grants totaling \$1,788,300 for the Solar Energy Systems for Agriculture Program. Funding for this program was provided by the Department of Energy.

The percentage of grants awarded to each type of institution closely parallels the percentage of applications received from each.

	<u>Percentage of Total Applications Submitted</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Grants Awarded</u>
USDA	6.7	4.7
SAES	52.0	50.0
Land Grant		
Institutions	14.0	14.0
Public		
Universities	14.0	14.0
Private		
Universities	12.0	14.0
Non-Profit		
Institutions	4.0	4.0
Profit		
Institutions	1.0	less than 1



### Update on Knapp Lectureship

Lester Brown, President of Worldwatch Institute, will present the first Seaman A. Knapp Memorial Lecture at the annual meeting of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) in Atlanta, Georgia, November 17. The meeting will focus on the effects of high energy costs, new energy resources, and changing energy uses.

Gale VandeBerg, program chairperson and Director of Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Wisconsin has been working with our Information Staff to bring the Knapp lecture to this forum.

A special medallion with Knapp's likeness has been created for the new series. SEA is proud to be able to establish the lectureship series to honor the memory and accomplishments of Seaman A. Knapp, an innovator in education and the father of Extension education, with its long and proud history in this country.

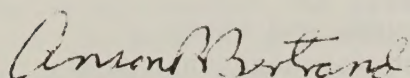
### Combined Federal Campaign

The 1981 USDA Combined Federal Campaign begins October 6, with a "kickoff" ceremony at headquarters in Washington. Millions of people will be touched by the services of the 212 voluntary agencies supported by the CFC. I hope all SEA staff will join with me in giving the campaign full support.

### Users Advisory Board and Joint Council Meetings

The National Agricultural Research and Extension Users Advisory Board met in North Conway, New Hampshire, September 15-17. The Board reviewed local renewable resources extension work, held a public forum for other program users to comment on priorities and needs, and drafted their report, which is due to Secretary Bergland by October 31. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the Board's 1980 report to research and extension program performers and are not already on the Board's mailing list, contact Dr. James Meyers, Executive Secretary, Room 351-A, Administration Building, Science and Education Administration, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

The Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Sciences will hold its regular quarterly meeting October 14-16, at the Westpark Hotel, Arlington, Virginia. The Council will discuss suggested revisions of Title XIV and will review planning and coordination of energy programs in the USDA. They will review the Research Facilities Study, and discuss the report of the Committee on Joint Council Strategies and the report, New Initiatives in Home Economics. They will also discuss the functions of the proposed committee for minority concerns. An update on the assessment of U.S. food and agriculture research being conducted by the Office of Technology Assessment will be received by the Council.



ANSON R. BERTRAND  
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Science and Education

